



Government of Malawi

NATIONAL SOCIAL PROTECTION POLICY

2024 - 2029

**Ministry of Finance
and Economic Affairs**

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FOREWORD

The Government has a fundamental responsibility to ensure the well-being of its citizens. However, the recurrence of climatic, economic, and health shocks has undermined socio-economic gains achieved in recent years. Many families continue to face uncertainty due to limited access to basic needs and essential services.

Recognizing these challenges, the Government has developed a Policy framework to guide stakeholders in designing and implementing social protection interventions. This effort underscores the Government's commitment to improving the quality of life for all Malawians.



This Policy will play a critical role in advancing the Human Capital Development enabler of Malawi 2063, ensuring improved welfare for all citizens. It prioritizes enhancing the productive capacity of Malawians by addressing the various constraints they face throughout the life cycle.

The Government call upon all stakeholders to fully support the implementation of this Policy. In turn, the Government remains committed to providing an enabling environment to ensure the successful realization of the Policy's goals.

Hon Simplex Chithyola Banda, M.P.
MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

PREFACE

The National Social Protection Policy offers an opportunity to enhance the implementation and coordination of social protection programmes in Malawi. This is crucial at a time when poverty and vulnerability levels remain high, necessitating more cost-effective approaches to providing comprehensive protection. Social protection is essential for addressing poverty and vulnerability as it helps less privileged citizens access services, builds resilience to shocks and improves livelihoods enabling citizens to live with dignity.



The Policy aims to empower all citizens to participate in and benefit from the social and economic transformation guided by Malawi 2063. The Policy also aligns the implementation of social protection with the United Nations (UN) Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development Goals: (1) No Poverty; (2) Zero Hunger; (3) Good Health and Well-being; and (10) Reduced Inequalities. Further, the Policy aligns with the African Union Agenda 2063's vision for transforming Africa into a global powerhouse and also the Southern African Development Community's (SADC) Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISPD) Pillar 4 on Social and Human Capital Development.

The development of this Policy involved reviewing the National Social Support Policy of 2012 and conducting an extensive multi-stakeholder consultation process. Stakeholders consulted included traditional leaders, Government Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs), the Private Sector, Academia, Research Institutions, Civil Society Organisations, Faith Based Organisations, Development Partners, and Non-Governmental Organisations. The Government expects all stakeholders to fully support the Policy's implementation to ensure it effectively contributes to the country's socio-economic development.

Betchani Tchereni, PhD.
SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY

ACRONYMS

CSO	Civil Society Organization
DNHA	Department of Nutrition, Health and HIV/AIDS
DSSC	District Social Support Committee
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EP&D	Economic Planning and Development
IHS	Integrated Household Survey
MIP-1	Malawi 2063 First 10-year Implementation Plan
MIS	Management Information System
MoF&EA	Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs
MNSSP	Malawi National Social Support Programme
MVAC	Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee
NELP	National Employment and Labour Policy
NEP	National Education Policy
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NJCS	National Job Creation Strategy
NPA	National Pensions Act
NRS	National Resilience Strategy
NSNS	National Safety Nets Strategy
NSSSC	National Social Support Steering Committee
NSSTC	National Social Support Technical Committee
NSSP	Social Support Policy
PRSP	Poverty Reduction and Social Protection
PWP	Public Works Programme
SCTP	Social Cash Transfer Programme
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SFP	School Feeding Programme
SLG	Savings and Loans Group
SSSP	Shock-Sensitive Social Protection
UBR	Unified Beneficiary Registry
UN	United Nations
USD	United States Dollar
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

GLOSSARY

Decent work:

Productive work where rights are protected, generating an adequate income with adequate protection.

Hazard:

A potentially dangerous event, substance, human activity, or condition that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihoods, social and economic disruptions, or environmental damage.

Household:

A single person or a group of people related or unrelated living together as a single unit, sharing common housekeeping arrangements, such as a common budget and eating from the same pot.

Labour-constrained household:

A household without able-bodied adults or with a dependency ratio higher than 3:1.

Life Cycle approach:

Recognizes that individuals face different risks and vulnerabilities at different stages in life and that social protection should be designed to address these risks at each stage.

Livelihood: The means by which people make a living and meet their basic needs.

Poor household:

Households that do not meet a minimum acceptable consumption level of food and non-food needs, as defined in the Integrated Household Survey (IHS 2010).

Poverty:

A state of continuous deprivation or a lack of basic necessities of life.

Risk: The likelihood of a shock or hazard that results in vulnerability.

Shock:

The effect of a sudden event or occurrence that leads to vulnerability.

Social insurance:

Contributory schemes where members make regular payments to cover costs related to life-course events.

Social Protection:

Encompasses social assistance, social insurance, social welfare services, labour market policies, and various public and private instruments aimed at eradicating poverty, addressing vulnerability and combating social exclusion through risk management.

Social security:

Protection provided by society to ensure access to health care and income security, particularly in cases of old age, unemployment, sickness, invalidity, work injury, maternity or loss of a breadwinner.

Ultra-Poor:

Inability to meet basic needs including both food and non-food.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION



1.1. The National Social Policy

The National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) provides a framework for the identification, design, implementation and monitoring of social protection interventions in Malawi. Building on the 2012 National Social Support Policy, its overarching goal is to reduce poverty and empower the poor to overcome poverty and vulnerability. The Policy focuses on reducing poverty and vulnerability and while ensuring protection throughout the lifecycle. It harmonises implementation and promotes effective coordination of the various social protection interventions to minimise lifecycle risks and empower people to contribute meaningfully to personal and national development.

The NSPP is a key element in national efforts to reduce poverty and vulnerability, ensuring protection for individuals throughout their lives. It aims to build the capabilities of the poor to engage in productive activities, enabling them to participate in and benefit from the growth process. The Policy is informed by sectoral, national, regional, and international frameworks.

The change in the Policy's name from the National Social Support Policy (NSSP) to the National Social Protection Policy reflects an expanded scope from mere social support to broader protection aspects. Thus, social protection encompasses social assistance, social insurance, social welfare services, labor market policies, as well as a variety of public and private instruments aimed at eradicating poverty, addressing vulnerability, and combating social exclusion. **Historical Context**

Malawi has long struggled with widespread poverty and vulnerability, with over 50% of its population living below the poverty line and a significant portion surviving on less than USD 1.90 per day, according to the World Bank Report of 2022. As of 2023, 58.8% of Malawians remain affected by persistent poverty, highlighting the multifaceted challenges the country faces, including frequent climatic and socio-economic shocks. In response to chronic poverty, the Malawi Government introduced the National Safety Nets Strategy (NSNS) in 2000, followed by the National Safety Nets Programme (NSNP) in 2002 under the Malawi Poverty Reduction Strategy. The NSNP aimed to alleviate poverty and

vulnerability through four sub-programmes: the Public Works Programme, the Targeted Nutrition Programme, the Targeted Inputs Programme, and Direct Welfare Transfers. However, these initiatives faced significant challenges, including capacity constraints, uncoordinated implementation, and inadequate funding. These issues were further compounded by the lack of a comprehensive policy framework to systematically address poverty and vulnerability. Recognising these gaps, the Government shifted focus from basic safety nets to more comprehensive social support.

The Integrated Household Survey (IHS) of 2010 revealed that poverty reduction was slow and the proportion of ultra-poor individuals had increased, highlighting that economic growth alone was insufficient to address deep-seated poverty in Malawi.

In 2012, in response to the slow pace of poverty reduction, the Government approved the National Social Support Policy (NSSP). This policy aimed at providing a comprehensive framework for social support. The NSSP outlined four key areas: Welfare Support; Protection of Assets; Promotion through Productivity Enhancement; and Policy Linkages and Mainstreaming. Operationalizing the NSSP, the first Malawi National Social Support Programme (MNSSP I) was approved in 2013. It focused on welfare support, asset protection, enhancing productive capacity, and fostering synergies with broader economic and social policies. The MNSSP I prioritized programmes such as Social Cash Transfer, School Meals, Public Works, Village Savings and Loans, and Micro-Finance.

In 2018, the MNSSP II succeeded the initial programme, reaffirming the government's commitment to providing social support. Its objectives were to reduce extreme poverty and vulnerability through three core pillars: Consumption Support; Resilient Livelihoods; and Shock-Sensitive Social Protection. Additionally, MNSSP II aimed to strengthen linkages within and outside the programme and improve the overall social protection systems. However, the programme still faced challenges, such as low budgetary support and weak coordination among stakeholders, necessitating further policy refinement and updates.

The evolving socio-economic landscape, changing demographics, and increased exposure to various risks and shocks have underscored the need for a more integrated and effective social protection system. The need for a successor to the NSSP was critical to address the highlighted challenges comprehensively.

1.2. The Current Status

According to the World Bank Report of 2023, 50.7% of Malawians live below the national poverty line, while the International Poverty Line indicates that 82.3% of the population subsists on less than USD 2.15 per day. These statistics underscore the deep-rooted income disparities and economic challenges faced by many households in the country. Approximately 20.1% of the population lives in ultra-poverty, surviving on less than USD 1.90 per day. These individuals struggle to meet basic needs and are highly vulnerable to economic and climatic shocks.

Poverty in Malawi is not solely about income but also involves deprivations in health, education, and living standards. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Report of 2023, 58.8% of Malawians are considered multidimensionally poor. This high rate reflects severe deprivations in areas such as education, healthcare, and basic living conditions. Multidimensional poverty is more prevalent in rural areas, where access to essential services and economic opportunities is limited. These regions face significant challenges in achieving sustainable livelihoods and building economic resilience.

Food insecurity remains a critical issue, exacerbated by Malawi's vulnerability to climatic and economic shocks. The 2023 Malawi Vulnerability Assessment Committee (MVAC) Report indicates that about 3.8 million people in Malawi are at risk of food insecurity. This crisis is driven by recurrent droughts, floods, and fluctuating agricultural productivity, which hinder many households' ability to secure adequate food. Malawi's economy is highly susceptible to both external and internal shocks. Global commodity price fluctuations and local climatic events disproportionately impact the poor and ultra-poor, who rely heavily on agriculture and informal sectors for their livelihoods (Malawi Economic Monitor, 2023).

According to the Demographic and Health Survey of 2023, access to healthcare is uneven, particularly in rural areas. High levels of malnutrition, combined with limited access to clean water and sanitation,

exacerbate health risks and reduce overall quality of life. Children, the elderly, and people with disabilities are among the most vulnerable groups. The absence of adequate social protection systems leaves these populations particularly exposed to poverty and deprivation.

Malawi's labor market is dominated by the informal sector, which lacks adequate social protection. About 89% of Malawi's labor force is employed in the informal sector (Integrated Household Survey, 2020). These workers often lack access to social security and are more vulnerable to economic instability and health crises. Existing social protection schemes predominantly cover the formal sector, leaving the vast majority of the labor force without adequate support. This gap underscores the urgent need for expanded and inclusive social protection systems.

Addressing the multifaceted nature of poverty, enhancing economic resilience, and ensuring broader access to social protection are essential for promoting sustainable development and improving the well-being of all Malawians. The National Social Protection Policy aims to provide a robust framework to tackle these challenges, foster equitable growth, and safeguard vulnerable populations against socio-economic shocks.

1.3. Problem Statement

Social protection programmes in Malawi have been implemented without a proper policy framework since the expiration of the predecessor policy in 2018. Despite the implementation of the National Social Support Programme (NSSP) as the prior guiding policy, over 50% of the Malawian population still live below the poverty line, with 20.4% classified as ultra-poor. This situation has been further exacerbated by climatic and socio-economic shocks. Additionally, the implementation of social protection programs has been hindered by low budgetary support, weak collaboration, and poorly coordinated structures. The predecessor policy narrowly focused on social support, leaving broader issues of social security largely unaddressed. In the absence of a successor policy, the social protection sector has relied on its second implementation framework, the Malawi National Social Support Programme (MNSSP) II, as a practical reference point for policy guidance. There is an urgent need for a more integrated and effective social protection system to address these challenges and promote long-term socio-economic stability. The new policy broadens the scope of social protection

interventions, enhances coordination among key stakeholders, and seeks to address the existing implementation gaps within the sector.

1.4. Purpose of the Policy

The National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) is designed to establish a unified and effective framework for coordinating and implementing various social protection initiatives across the country. Its primary goal is to reduce life cycle risks and empower all citizens, enabling them to actively participate in and contribute to both their personal development and the nation's socio-economic progress.

The Policy also seeks to streamline social protection efforts by minimizing fragmentation and duplication, ensuring that resources are used efficiently and interventions reach those most in need. By promoting a cohesive approach, the Policy enhances the effectiveness and impact of social protection measures, fostering sustainable development, resilience, and inclusive growth.

Aligned with Malawi 2063, the NSPP aspires to establish a comprehensive social protection system that provides targeted assistance to vulnerable populations. This vision ensures that all Malawians are equipped and empowered to contribute to and benefit from the country's socio-economic development. Through this Policy, Malawi reaffirms its commitment to creating a more inclusive and resilient society, where every citizen has the opportunity to thrive.

1.5. Linkages with other Policies and Legislations

The National Social Protection Policy aligns with various national, regional, and international frameworks to ensure a coherent and comprehensive approach to social protection.

(a) National Policies and Pieces of Legislation

1. The Malawi Constitution

Chapter 4 of the Malawi Constitution guarantees rights to every citizen and is also specific on the right to development as it states that, "All persons and people have a right to development and therefore to the enjoyment of economic, social, cultural and political development and women, children and the disabled in particular shall be given special

consideration in the application of this right." It further states that:

- "The state shall take all necessary measures for the realisation of the right to development"
- "The state shall take measures to introduce reforms aimed at eradicating social injustices and inequalities".

2. Malawi 2063

Malawi 2063, envisions an "Inclusively Wealthy and Self-reliant Nation" by 2063, identifies social protection as a critical component of its Human Capital Development Enabler. This Enabler highlights the role of social protection in building resilience at individual, household and community levels. It also emphasizes supporting people whose livelihoods are vulnerable to recurring shocks such as natural disasters, economic crises and pandemics. The NSPP draws directly from the Malawi 2063, Government is implementing the Malawi 2063 first 10-year Implementation Plan (MIP-1, 2021-2030).

3. National Disaster Risk Management Act

The Act provides a comprehensive legal framework for disaster risk management in Malawi. It integrates disaster risk management with social protection measures, such as cash transfers, food assistance, and temporary shelter to reduce the vulnerability of disaster-affected populations.

4. The National Climate Change Management Policy

This Policy focuses on mitigating the socioeconomic impacts of climate change and improving community resilience through sustainable livelihoods and reduced emissions. It acknowledges that the poorest and most vulnerable populations are disproportionately affected by climate change impacts.

5. The National Gender Policy

The National Gender Policy emphasizes gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment to achieve gender equality and equity in Malawi. The Policy views gender mainstreaming as essential to reducing poverty and vulnerability, enhancing the participation of women, men, girls and boys in socio-economic development processes.

6. The National Disability Policy

This Policy provides a framework for prioritizing, coordinating, implementing and monitoring of disability-inclusive programmes as a human rights and development issue. It aims to create an inclusive Malawian society where persons with disabilities actively contribute to and benefit from national development efforts.

7. The National Policy for Older Persons

The National Policy for Older Persons seeks to safeguard the rights of older persons, improve their wellbeing, encourage their participation, and leverage their knowledge and skills in national development.

8. The National Early Childhood Development (ECD) Policy

The Policy guides the coordination of ECD activities and enhances support and investment in ECD programmes and interventions in Malawi. It ensures the provision of essential services such as nutritious food, clean water, sanitation, immunization, and play materials to all children, including those in difficult situations.

9. The National Decentralisation Policy

This Policy empowers local communities to actively participate in decision-making processes affecting their welfare. It aims to bring the Government closer to the people for improved service delivery, equitable development, and sustainable growth. The NSPP aligns with this policy by empowering local authorities to implement and manage social protection initiatives, fostering capacity-building and ownership.

10. National Multi-Sector Nutrition Policy

This policy envisions a well-nourished Malawian population contributing to economic growth. It focuses on preventing undernutrition among vulnerable groups, including children under five, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and people living with HIV/AIDS. The NSPP supports nutrition-sensitive social protection measures such as school feeding and health programs.

11. National Education Policy (NEP)

The NEP promotes free and compulsory basic education to ensure inclusive, equitable, and quality lifelong learning. It emphasizes the role of education in reducing intergenerational poverty through school feeding programs, health interventions, and improved water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities. The Policy aligns with the NEP by integrating aspects which enhance education outcomes in its pillars.

12. National Employment and Labour Policy (NELP)

The NELP prioritizes employment as a central driver of poverty reduction and economic growth. It includes objectives such as improving labor standards, promoting gender equality, enhancing rural employment, and addressing the needs of vulnerable groups through skills development and labor productivity. social and economic policies, while providing drivers of poverty reduction. Some of the priority areas of the NELP include: economic growth and employment; skills development and labour productivity; employment of vulnerable groups and promotion of gender equality, youth employment; promotion of agriculture and rural employment; improving labour administration and labour standards.

13. National Resilience Strategy (NRS)

The Policy aligns with the National Resilience Strategy (NRS) which focuses on household resilience, livelihoods and social protection. It envisions a country free of chronic vulnerability, and of food and nutrition insecurity, where sustainable economic development creates opportunities for everyone, fostering resilience against economic and environmental shocks.

14. National Job Creation Strategy (NJCS)

The NJCS aims to facilitate employment creation in an environment of accelerated, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable economic growth. The NSPP aligns with the NJCS through its Resilient Livelihoods pillar which promotes sustainable livelihoods and economic empowerment.

15. *The National Pensions Act, (CAP 55:02)*

The NSPP aligns with the National Pensions Act (NPA), which mandates employers to provide pensions to their employees. It ensures that all employees in Malawi receive retirement and supplementary benefits while fostering prudent pension fund management to support national savings and economic growth.

(b) *Linkages with Regional and International Frameworks*

The Social Protection Policy is aligned with several significant international frameworks ensuring coherence with global and regional social protection obligations

1. *The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*

The Policy is aligned with the following SDGs and targets:

- **Goal 1:** No Poverty, Target 1.3 – Implementing appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, achieving substantial coverage of the poor and vulnerable by 2020.
- **Goal 2:** Zero Hunger, Target 2.1 – Ensuring access for the poor and vulnerable to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food all year round.
- **Goal 3:** Good Health and Well-Being, Target 3.8 – Aiming for universal health coverage and access to quality essential healthcare services.
- **Goal 5:** Gender Equality, Target 5.4 – Recognizing and valuing unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure, and social protection policies.

- **Goal 8:** Decent Work and Economic Growth, Target 8.5 – Achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including young people and persons with disabilities.

- **Goal 10:** Reduced Inequalities, Target 10.4 – Ensuring the adoption of fiscal, wage, and social protection policies to progressively achieve greater equality.

2. *African Union Agenda 2063*

The Government of Malawi also subscribes to Agenda 2063, the African Union's strategic framework for inclusive and sustainable development to be achieved by 2063. This vision articulates aspirations for African countries to foster unity, self-determination, freedom, progress, and collective prosperity under the principles of Pan-Africanism and the African Renaissance. Among its priority areas is Social Security and Protection, including the rights of persons with disabilities.

3. *Southern African Development Community's (SADC) Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP)*

The Policy aligns with the SADC RISDP, focusing on poverty reduction, economic empowerment, social insurance, and human capital development. Through this alignment, Malawi contributes to the broader regional goals of socio-economic development and integration.

CHAPTER 2

BROAD POLICY DIRECTIONS



2.1. Policy Goal

To enhance quality of life for individuals suffering from poverty and hunger and to improve the resilience of those vulnerable to risks and shocks.

2.2. Policy Outcomes

The desired outcomes of the National Social Protection Policy by 2029 are:

- i. Strengthened human capital accumulation.
- ii. Enhanced resilience to asset erosion among the poor and vulnerable.
- iii. A strengthened Shock-sensitive social protection system.
- iv. Improved quality and expanded coverage of social security, addressing risks across the life cycle.
- v. Enhanced institutional capacity within the social protection ecosystem.

2.3. Policy Objectives

The specific objectives of the policy are to:

- i. Provide welfare support to the poorest and most vulnerable populations to improve their standard of living.
- ii. Complement welfare support with broader productive livelihood interventions that help at-risk populations withstand shocks and build sustainable livelihoods.
- iii. Establish the foundations for a comprehensive, adequate and sustainable social security or protection system that aligns with international standards, including provisions for those working in the informal sector.
- iv. Strengthen the systems and capacities of stakeholders to effectively manage social protection programmes.
- v. Safeguard long-term income generating potential for the poor and vulnerable.

2.4. Guiding Principles

The successful implementation of this policy will be guided by the following principles and core values:

i. Government led

Strong government ownership and leadership in the provision of social protection will be promoted and supported. This includes the delivery of basic social protection services, administration, and regulation of the programmes and relevant institutions at all levels, (National, District and Community). The government will oversee the coordination and alignment of all stakeholders, while other actors will support specific aspects of the policy under government oversight

ii. A comprehensive, flexible and shock sensitive system

The social protection system will adopt a comprehensive approach, encompassing protective, preventive, promotional, and transformational strategies. This will ensure adequate coverage to address the predictable needs of households while also responding to covariate risks.

iii. Good Governance, Accountability and Transparency

Social protection Programmes will adhere to principles of good governance, including inclusivity, effective participation, transparency, accountability, efficient and effective management systems. These principles will ensure responsiveness, equity and equality of opportunity.

iv. Gender responsiveness

The policy will mainstream gender considerations across all social protection interventions. It will address gender-specific risks and vulnerabilities, including gender norms, roles and inequalities, particularly those affecting children and women.

v. Adequacy

The policy will strive to provide sufficient support and resources to lift people out of poverty. This will enable individuals to address risks and cope with vulnerabilities specific to their circumstances.

vi. Needs and Evidence-based programming

Social protection programmes will inform by evidence-based, ensuring that interventions address identified needs and target individuals who meet the eligibility criteria.

vi. Efficiency and effectiveness

Social protection interventions will be delivered in a timely, harmonised reliable manner. Roles, responsibilities and working modalities among all stakeholders will clearly be defined.

viii. Complementarity

All activities will align with national priorities and objectives for development, poverty reduction, humanitarian assistance, and disaster risk reduction. Programmes will reinforce and complement other national sector policies.

ix. Support and promotion of resilient livelihoods

In addition to providing welfare support to the ultra-poor, the policy will promote interventions that enable the poor access pathways out of poverty and reduce their vulnerability to risks and livelihood shocks.

x. Equity and social inclusion

The policy will address both social and economic vulnerabilities. It will prioritize the protection and inclusion of marginalised or disadvantaged groups, including those affected by age, shocks, livelihoods, or disability.

xi. Common and sustainable long-term funding

The government and development partners will ensure reliable and sustainable funding for social protection. This will involve the use of appropriate mechanisms, such as basket funding to provide predictable and institutionalised funding under government control.

xii. Engagement and Participation

The social protection sector will promote stakeholder engagement and participation in the design, planning, implementation and governance of social protection programmes. This will include direct involvement and representation from stakeholders.

xiii. Progressive Realisation

The policy will include measures to progressively achieve higher levels of social protection, reaching as many people as possible. This will be guided by international standards, social dialogue and the national context.

xiv. Client/Beneficiary Centered Approach

Social protection services and products will be tailored to meet specific needs of clients and beneficiaries, ensuring they are relevant and responsive.

CHAPTER 3

POLICY PRIORITY AREAS



The policy focuses on seven (7) Priority Areas to achieve its goal, objectives and outcomes:

- a. Social Safety Nets;
- b. Resilient Livelihoods;
- c. Nutrition – Sensitive Social Protection;
- d. Shock – Sensitive Social Protection; Social Security; and
- e. Creating an Enabling Environment for Social Protection Systems; and
- f. Cross - cutting issues.

3.1. Priority Area 1: Social Safety Nets

Social safety nets are interventions designed to protect poor and vulnerable groups from extreme poverty and social exclusion. They provide a cushion for households, ensuring a minimum level of well-being during times of need. These safety nets enable poor and vulnerable members of society to meet their basic needs, develop their capabilities and increase their social and economic participation.

Social safety nets can be in-kind or cash-based. Key programmes under this priority area include:

- Social Cash Transfer Programme (SCTP);
- Public Works Programme (PWP);
- Food-for-work;
- Input for-work projects;
- Subsidized agricultural inputs;
- School Feeding Programme (SFP); and
- Bursary schemes.

To ensure effective implementation, harmonized targeting supported by the Unified Beneficiary Registry (UBR) is essential. With 20.5% of Malawi's population living in ultra-poverty, there is an urgent need for the government to provide robust social safety nets.

3.1.1. Policy Statement

The policy will ensure that social safety nets coverage and adequacy of support are strengthened and expanded.

Strategies

- i. Improve the provision of adequate social safety nets benefits.
- ii. Strengthen community involvement and social accountability in beneficiary selection.
- iii. Enhance delivery mechanisms for timely response in safety net programmes.
- iv. Increase coverage of safety nets for ultra-poor households.
- v. Promote community awareness and sensitization on various safety nets programmes.

3.2. Priority Area 2: Resilient Livelihoods

Resilient livelihoods focus on building the ability of individuals, households and communities to withstand and recover from shocks and stresses that disrupt their livelihoods.

The ultra-poor often lack skills, knowledge and adaptive strategies to construct sustainable livelihoods. Limited access to financial services and diversified income sources further hampers their capacity to cope with adverse events, perpetuating poverty.

3.2.1. Policy Statement

The policy will ensure that individuals and households engage in diverse, tailored pathways build resilient livelihoods.

Strategies

- i. Strengthen linkages among social assistance programmes and with other basic social services.
- ii. Enhance access to productive resources and skills for vulnerable populations.

- iii. Promote climate-resilient income generating activities.
- iv. Diversify income sources, including agricultural and off-farm activities to build resilience.
- v. Improve access to financial services for greater financial inclusion.
- vi. Promote inclusive savings and loans schemes.

3.3. Priority Area 3: Nutrition – Sensitive Social Protection

Nutrition-sensitive social protection integrates nutritional outcomes into social protection programs, addressing the needs of vulnerable populations such as children, pregnant and lactating women, and other at-risk groups. These interventions aim to reduce maternal and child malnutrition by addressing root causes, including health services, food security, education, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH).

Despite progress in reducing stunting and malnutrition in children under five, micronutrient deficiencies (hidden hunger) remain widespread, hindering human development and perpetuating poverty.

3.3.1. Policy Statement

The policy will ensure that nutrition-related interventions incorporate into national social protection programmes to reduce micronutrient deficiencies.

Strategies

- i. Promote nutrition-sensitive value chains within social protection.
- ii. Promote production and consumption of diverse nutritious foods among social protection beneficiaries.
- iii. Empower vulnerable populations with Integrated Homestead Farming packages.
- iv. Ensure optimal nutrition in shock-response interventions.
- v. Harmonize coordination mechanisms for nutrition and social protection interventions.

- vi. Promote WASH awareness and consumption of diverse diets, focusing on locally available foods among vulnerable categories of social protection beneficiaries.

3.4. Priority Area 4: Shock – Sensitive Social Protection

Shock-sensitive social protection focuses on designing interventions that mitigate the impact of shocks on vulnerable populations. In Malawi, frequent shocks such as natural disasters disproportionately affect poor communities, exacerbating poverty and social exclusion.

3.4.1. Policy Statement 1

The policy will ensure protection for individuals, households and communities affected by cyclical livelihood shocks, seasonal vulnerabilities.

Strategies:

- i. Design scalable programmes to address acute needs during shocks.
- ii. Establish predictable, multi-year support system for poor households to reduce annual emergency responses.
- iii. Strengthen district-level coordination structures among humanitarian and social protection actors.
- iv. Link vulnerable households to complementary services like veterinary services drought resistant crops.
- v. Integrate an environmental perspective in shocks and pandemic prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery
- vi. Strengthen mechanisms for comprehensive accounting for vulnerable groups in social protection programming

3.4.2. Policy Statement 2

The policy will address the needs, risks, and vulnerabilities of different groups, including women, girls, boys, men, the elderly, the disabled, and other minority groups during shocks.

Strategies:

- i. Integrate environmental perspectives into shock and pandemic prevention preparedness, response and recovery.
- ii. Ensure comprehensive inclusion of vulnerable groups in shock-sensitive responses.

- ii. Develop affordable and innovative social protection schemes for informal sector.
- iii. Enhance institutional capacity and legislative frameworks for delivery of effective and sustainable social security schemes or services.
- iv. Link employment creation and social insurance for decent work.
- v. Raise awareness about social security and its benefits among different sections of society.
- vi. Strengthen coordination and collaboration among informal sector stakeholders.

3.5. Priority Area 5: Social Security

Social Security provides societal protection for individuals and households, ensuring access to healthcare and income security, especially in cases of old age, unemployment, sickness, invalidity, work injury, maternity or loss of a breadwinner. Current social security schemes encompass contributory pension schemes like the National Pension Scheme, Public Service Pension Fund, Local Authority Superannuation Fund, and various private sector occupational schemes. Additionally, social security services include medical schemes and the Worker's Compensation Fund, which compensates employees for work-related injuries that prevent them from working.

Existing social security schemes in Malawi cater mainly to the formal sector, leaving informal workers without coverage. As a result, workers who do not fall within the regular labour-relation do not have any form of social security except the daily wage. Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) services in the workplace cover only a small proportion of the formal economy labour force. The absence of comprehensive social security coverage exacerbates inequalities and limits the ability of households to invest in their future well-being.

3.5.1. Policy Statement

The policy will enhance the coverage, quality and range of social security benefits and products across formal and informal sectors.

Strategies:

- i. Develop and strengthen social insurance schemes.

3.6. Priority Area 6: Creating an enabling Environment for Social Protection Systems

An enabling environment is a rich and varied space where risks are minimised, well- managed and vulnerable populations are protected. A robust enabling environment is essential for an effective and sustainable social protection system. It encompasses supportive policies, strong institutional frameworks, and adequate financial resources among other factors.

In Malawi, the social protection sector faces challenges such as fragmented service delivery, insufficient coordination among stakeholders, limited fiscal space, weak institutional capacity and lack of a supportive legal framework. These challenges hinder the effectiveness of interventions.

3.6.1. Policy Statement 1

The Policy will promote coordinated multi sectoral social protection interventions at national, district and community levels

Strategies:

- i. Strengthen and harmonize social protection coordination structures at all levels.
- ii. Develop participatory approaches in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of social protection programmes and interventions.
- iii. Ensure complementarity in designing and implementation of social protection interventions with relevant interventions in other sectors

such as health, education, agriculture, and humanitarian.

- iv. Enhance communications and advocacy in the social protection sector.

3.6.2. Policy Statement 2

The policy will ensure that investments in delivery of social protection interventions are increased at all levels.

Strategies:

- i. Promote public-private partnerships in social protection programmes.
- ii. Strengthen resource mobilization to ensure sustainable investments from government and non-government sources.
- iii. Strengthen human capacity for effective programming and delivery of social protection services at all levels.
- iv. Increase government budgetary allocation for social protection interventions.
- v. Establish a social protection monitoring and evaluation system to track the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of social protection programmes.
- vi. Strengthen harmonized targeting mechanisms for social protection programmes.

3.6.3. Policy Statement 3

The policy will ensure that legal frameworks governing social protection are strengthened.

Strategies:

- i. Strengthen legal and regulatory framework for social protection.
- ii. Enforce legal instruments to guide implementation of social protection interventions and programmes.
- iii. Enhance social accountability and transparency in social protection implementation.

3.7. Priority Area 7: Cross – Cutting Issues

Cross-cutting issues are diverse themes that intersect with various aspects of social protection and welfare. Key issues for social protection implementation include gender equality, disability inclusion, environmental sustainability, and food security. All of these are critical for ensuring that social protection programmes are equitable, inclusive, and responsive to the diverse needs of the population.

Inadequate integration of these cross-cutting issues continues to undermine the effectiveness of social protection, leaving marginalized groups vulnerable to poverty and social exclusion. For example, climate change and environmental degradation disproportionately affect the poor and vulnerable, exacerbating social and economic inequalities. Efforts to promote gender equality have not sufficiently addressed intra-household power dynamics.

3.7.1. Policy Statement 1

1 - Food Security

The policy will ensure that food security is integrated into existing social safety nets and that improved coordination mechanisms are established among different social safety nets to ensure timely information sharing for maximum impact.

Strategies:

- i. Support food production through input provision, knowledge and skills transfer, and extension services linkage.
- ii. Explore innovative ways of cushioning farming households against production related risks through social insurance products/services.
- iii. Promote irrigation production and intercropping to improve access to and utilisation of food among poor and vulnerable households.

3.7.2. Policy statement 2

2- Disability Inclusion

The policy will ensure that a comprehensive combination of social protection interventions is designed, implemented and monitored in a way that ensures the inclusion and involvement of persons with disabilities, with particular attention to removing

barriers they face and considering the different risks and inequalities.

Strategies:

- i. Enhance disability inclusiveness in social protection programmes and projects.
- ii. Promote access to social protection interventions for households with persons with disabilities.
- iii. Promote disability- inclusive programming in social protection.

3.7.3. Policy Statement 3

3- Gender mainstreaming

The policy will ensure that the design, implementation, and delivery mechanism of social protection interventions explicitly address gender dynamics in social protection programmes, in order to address gender stereotypes and unequal gender power relations in households.

Strategies:

- i. Ensure gender balance in capacity- building initiatives.
- ii. Ensure gender balance in decision-making roles.
- iii. Promote the use of participatory approaches to involve women in programme or project design.

iv. Promote the use of gender-responsive indicators as a minimum standard for activity design, implementation and monitoring.

v. Ensure that all social protection programmes are gender-sensitive.

vi. Promote positive parenting interventions in social protection.

3.7.4. Policy Statement 4

4 - Climate Change and Environment

The policy will ensure that systems and actors account for the importance of the environmental perspective throughout the different phases of the programme, including design, planning, implementation, and monitoring.

Strategies:

- i. Ensure the integration of environmental considerations in the design, implementation and monitoring of social protection interventions.
- ii. Promote the inclusion of environmental aspects when assessing vulnerabilities, exposure, and potential impacts of disasters.
- iii. Manage the impacts of environmental drivers such as climate change, the spread of pathogenic organisms and hazardous substances that pose risks to human health.

CHAPTER 4

IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS



4.1 Institutional Arrangements

The Government recognizes the multisectoral nature of social protection, which involves various Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies; development partners; civil society; research institutions; academia; private sector; faith-based organizations and community structures. This necessitates a well-defined institutional arrangement with clear mandates to delivery of social protection services in a coordinated manner.

The Ministry responsible for Economic Planning and Development as the policy holder will lead the implementation of the Policy through the Poverty Reduction and Social Protection (PRSP) Division, in collaboration with key stakeholders outlined below.

4.1.1. The Role of Stakeholders in the Policy Implementation

The key stakeholders in the implementation of the Policy include the Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC), Ministries responsible for Local Government; Gender; Community Development; Social Welfare; Labor; Finance; Education; Health; Agriculture and Justice. Other stakeholders include Local Councils; Development Partners, NGOs, Academia and Research Institutions. Their roles are as follows:

4.1.2. Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs):

- i. **The Office of the President and Cabinet:** Provide overall guidance and direction in the implementation monitoring and review of the Policy.
- ii. **The Ministry responsible for Economic Planning and Development:** As the policy holder, the Ministry will provide strategic leadership, coordination, capacity development and monitoring, evaluation and review of the implementation of the Policy. Specific responsibilities include:
 - a. Ensuring the functionality of Social Protection coordination structures at all levels.
 - b. Initiating the formulation of Policies and legislation related to Social Protection in collaboration with stakeholders.

- c. Setting minimum standards and guidelines for social protection programmes.
- d. Monitoring and supervising social protection programmes.
- e. Disseminating information on social protection to stakeholders.
- f. Enhancing systems integration and interoperability across all Social Protection interventions.
- g. Coordinating private sector and civil society participation in the provision of services to vulnerable groups.
- h. Harmonising targeting criteria for cash and non-cash transfers.

iii. Ministry responsible for Social Welfare:

- a. Implement the Social Cash Transfer Programme (SCTP).
- b. Mobilise additional resources donor contributions SCTP.
- c. Provide technical support and capacity building to Local Authorities implementing SCTP.

iv. Ministry responsible for Community Development:

- a. Provide guidance and facilitate capacity development in managing Savings and Loan Groups (SLGs).
- b. Facilitate community level mobilization for implementation of social protection interventions.
- c. Facilitate the establishment of linkages with complimentary interventions.

v. Ministry responsible for Gender Affairs:

- a. Facilitate capacity building of stakeholders in gender mainstreaming.
- b. Facilitate the introduction of gender transformative methodologies to

- improve relations in communities.
- c. Facilitate awareness raising on Gender Based Violence.
- vi. Ministry responsible for Disability and Elderly Affairs**
- a. Ensure access to marketable vocational skills and rehabilitation for persons with disabilities
- b. Promote independent living for persons with disability.
- c. Advocate for rights, nutrition and health status of older persons.
- vii. Ministry responsible for Local Government:**
- a. Provide policy guidance on decentralisation of social protection interventions.
- b. Oversee the implementation of decentralized social protection interventions at local level.
- viii. Ministry responsible for Finance:**
- a. Mobilise and allocate resources for social protection programmes.
- b. Ensure timely and accurate disbursement of funds.
- c. Facilitate technical assistance to enhance social protection programming.
- ix. Ministry responsible for Health:**
- a. Ensure that health care providers address the rights of vulnerable persons.
- b. Facilitate provision of tertiary and secondary level health care services.
- c. Offer policy guidance on health insurance.
- x. Ministry responsible for Agriculture:**
- a. Provide farming inputs, and agricultural extension services to vulnerable farming households.
- b. Facilitate market access for goods produced by vulnerable farming households.
- c. Ensure food security and diversification for enhanced nutrition of vulnerable households.
- xi. Department responsible for Disaster Management Affairs**
- a. Facilitate mitigation of disaster risks proactive measures.
- b. Facilitate the reduction of disaster impacts on communities.
- c. Enhance preparedness for disaster response.
- d. Facilitate the provision of effective emergency assistance.
- e. Coordinate recovery efforts for affected communities.
- xii. Ministry responsible for Education:**
- a. Facilitate the implementation of School Feeding Programme.
- b. Coordinate implementation of education support programmes including bursary schemes.
- xiii. Ministry responsible for Youth:**
- a. Provide vocational, skills training and recreation facilities to youths.
- b. Provide youth empowerment funds.
- xiv. Ministry responsible for Labour:**
- a. Coordinate application of International Labour standards.

- b. Coordinate relevant social insurance schemes/matters.
- c. Facilitate the elimination of harmful child labour and the employment of young persons.
- d. Enhance efforts to actualize the Decent Work Country Programme.
- e. Ensure adherence to International Standards on labour related social security.
- f. Ensure participation of social partners in development.
- g. Support extension of social security to the informal economy.
- h. Promote social dialogue and social partners participation in design and implementation of social protection policies and programmes.

xv. Ministries responsible for Industry and Trade:

- a. Provide skills training to vulnerable groups in order to be engaged in small to medium size enterprises (SME).
- b. Support identified vulnerable groups with finances for SME.
- c. Create linkages to the national and international markets.
- d. Facilitate market access for goods produced by vulnerable SMEs.

xvi. Ministry responsible for Justice:

- a. Provide technical expertise on legislation and review of laws related to Social Protection.
- b. Facilitate the domestication of international conventions and agreements related to social protection.

xv. Ministry responsible for Information:

- a. Promotion of Social Protection using an Information, Education and Communication (IEC) strategy that will guide how the population will learn about Social Protection and respective programmes.
- b. Share and coordinate information to electronic and print media.
- c. Make presentations at national, regional and global for a.
- d. Undertake education and information sessions at district and community levels.

xvi. Ministry responsible for Nutrition:

- a. Provide oversight, strategic leadership, Policy direction and monitoring on matters of nutrition in social protection programmes.
- b. Provide policy guidance on nutrition-sensitive social protection.
- c. Spearhead the mainstreaming of nutrition in social protection programmes for improved nutrition outcomes among the poverty-stricken households and vulnerable populations.

xvii. National Local Government Finance Committee (NLGFC):

- a. Implement Public Works programme.
- b. Perform PMU services for the Social Protection Multi-Donor Trust Fund.
- c. Provide fiduciary services for social protection interventions at local authority level.

xviii. Malawi Parliament:

- a. Enact laws and legislation that support social protection programs.

- b. Lobby for adequate funding for social protection programmes.
- c. Oversee the implementation of social protection programmes.

- d. Promote accountability and research and Policy dialogue.
- e. Advocate for the rights and mobilisation of resources for vulnerable groups.

xix. District, Town, Municipal and City Councils:

- a. Facilitate the implementation of participatory local development.
- b. Implement resilient livelihoods interventions through tailored packages based on individual, household, and community needs.
- c. Ensure transparency and accountability of social protection coordination structures at local level.
- d. The community level social protection coordination structures will collaborate with community-level local government structures to oversee the targeting and implementation of social protection interventions.
- e. Ensure the functionality of harmonized Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) structures.

4.1.3. Development Partners:

- a. Provide technical and financial support to social protection programming.
- b. Engage in Policy dialogue.

4.1.4. Non-Governmental Organizations, Faith Based Organizations and Civil Society Organizations:

- a. Complement the Government's efforts through the provision of social protection programmes.
- b. Support programme design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- c. Undertake advocacy, community mobilization and sensitization exercises.

4.1.5. Academia and Research Institutions:

- a. Conduct research and evaluation to inform policy design and implementation.
- b. Provide evidence-based recommendations to policy makers.
- c. Develop innovative solutions to social protection challenges.
- d. Build capacity and train professionals in social protection.
- e. Disseminate knowledge and best practices through publications and conferences.

4.1.6. Private Sector:

- a. Partner Government in implementing social protection programmes.
- b. Initiate and implement corporate social responsibility targeted at social protection programmes.

4.2 Implementation Plan

The implementation plan for the policy, with expected roles and respective timeframes, appears in Annex 1. The Department of Economic Planning and Development, leading the Malawi National Social Protection Strategy (MNSPS), will operationalize the policy to achieve the overall goal and objectives and implement the strategies and actions in line with MIP-1.

4.3 Monitoring and Evaluation

The Government commits to implementing a robust monitoring and evaluation system to support implementation of the Policy, using the monitoring and evaluation plan in Annex 2. The Policy will be reviewed where necessary and after the five-

year implementation period. The M&E system will address:

- i. Efficient use of available resources (cost-effectiveness);
- ii. Effective coordination of relevant partners to implement Social Support programmes;
- iii. Sufficient capacity for key stakeholders and implementing partners to carry out monitoring and evaluation activities; and
- iv. Monitoring progress in reducing vulnerability to hunger and poverty.
- v. Monitoring the impact of social insurance programmes on vulnerability.

ANNEXES



Annex 1: Implementation Plan

PRIORITY AREA 1: Social Safety Nets

Policy Statement: The Policy will ensure that social safety nets coverage and adequacy of support are strengthened and expanded

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
To strengthen social safety nets coverage and adequacy To extend social safety nets coverage.	Improve the provision of adequate social safety nets benefits.	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Local Government, Unity & Culture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; Financial Service Providers (FSPs); and NGOs	2024 – 2029
	Strengthen community involvement and social accountability in beneficiary selection	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Local Government, Unity & Culture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Civil Society Organizations; Development Partners; Community Leaders; and NGOs	2024 – 2029
	Enhance delivery mechanisms for timely response in safety net programmes.	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community, Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Information and Digitalization; Ministry of Local Government, Unity & Culture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; FSPs; CSOs; and NGOs	2024 – 2029
	Increase coverage of safety nets for ultra-poor households	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Education; National Local Government Finance Committee; and Development Partners	2024 – 2029
	Promote community awareness and sensitization on various safety nets programmes.	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community, Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Information and Digitalization; Ministry of Local Government, Unity & Culture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; FSPs; Community Leaders; CSOs; and NGOs	2024 – 2029

PRIORITY AREA 2: Resilient Livelihoods

Policy Statement: The Policy will ensure that individuals and households engage in diverse, tailored pathways, to build resilient livelihoods

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
To construct resilient livelihoods to individuals and households engage in a combination of different pathways	Strengthen individual and group climate resilient income generating activities	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Trade and Industry; Ministry of Local Government, Unity & Culture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; Private Sector; CSOs; and NGOs	2024 – 2029
	Strengthen linkages among social assistance programmes and with other basic social services.	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Information and Digitalization; National Local Government Finance Committee; Department of Nutrition, Health and HIV and Aids (DNHA); Development Partners; CSOs; and NGOs	2024 – 2029
	Enhance access to productive resources and skills for vulnerable populations	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Trade and Industry; Ministry of Agriculture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Ministry of Labour; Development Partners; Private Sector; CSOs; and NGOs	2024 – 2029
	Diversify income sources, including agricultural and off-farm activities to build resilience.	Department responsible for economic planning and Development, Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Trade and Industry; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; Private Sector; CSOs; and NGOs	2024 – 2029
	Improve access to financial services for greater financial inclusion.	Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs; Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Information and Digitalization; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; FSPs	2024 – 2029
	Promote inclusive savings and loans schemes	Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs; Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Information and Digitalization; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; FSPs; CSOs; and NGOs	2024 – 2029

PRIORITY AREA 3: Nutrition – Sensitive Social Protection

Policy Statement: The Policy will ensure that nutrition-related interventions are incorporate into national social protection programmes to reduce micronutrient deficiencies

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
To in cooperate nutrition-related interventions in national social protection programmes to reduce micronutrient deficiencies	Promote nutrition-sensitive value chains within social protection	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Trade and Industry; Ministry of Local Government, Unity & Culture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Department of Nutrition, Health and HIV and Aids (DNHA); Development Partners; Private Sector; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029
	Promote production and consumption of diverse nutritious foods among social protection beneficiaries	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Information and Digitalization; Ministry of Education; National Local Government Finance Committee; Department of Nutrition, Health and HIV and Aids (DNHA); Ministry of Trade and Industry; Development Partners; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029
	Empower vulnerable populations with Integrated Homestead Farming package	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Local Government, Unity & Culture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Department of Nutrition, Health and HIV and Aids (DNHA); Development Partners; Community Leaders; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029
	Harmonize coordination mechanisms for nutrition and social protection interventions	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Department of Nutrition, Health and HIV and Aids (DNHA); Community Leaders	2024-2027
	Promote optimal nutrition in social protection interventions	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare, Ministry of Information and Digitalization, National Local Government Finance Committee; Department of Nutrition, Health and HIV and Aids (DNHA); Development Partners; Community Leaders; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029
	Promote WASH awareness and consumption of diverse diets focusing on locally available foods among children, adolescent girls and boys and pregnant and lactating mothers	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Water & Sanitation; Ministry of Information and Digitalization; National Local Government Finance Committee; Department of Nutrition, Health and HIV and Aids (DNHA); Development Partners; Private Sector; Community Leaders; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029

PRIORITY AREA 4: Shock – Sensitive Social Protection

Policy Statement: a.) The Policy will ensure protection for individuals, households and communities affected by cyclical livelihood shocks, seasonal vulnerabilities.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
To protect individuals, households and communities affected by cyclical livelihood shocks, seasonal vulnerability.	Design scalable programmes to address acute needs during shocks	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Department of Disaster Management Affairs; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; Private Sector; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029
	Establish predictable, multi-year support system for poor households to reduce annual emergency responses	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Department of Disaster Management Affairs; Ministry of Agriculture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; Private Sector; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2028
	Strengthen district-level coordination structures among humanitarian and social protection actors.	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; and Department of Disaster Management Affairs	2024-2027
	Link vulnerable households to complementary services like veterinary services drought resistant crops.	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Department of Disaster Management Affairs; Ministry of Agriculture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; Private Sector; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029
	Integrate an environmental perspective in shocks and pandemic prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Department of Disaster Management Affairs; National Local Government Finance Committee; Environmental Affairs Department; Development Partners; Private Sector; CSOs; NGOs	2024-2026
	Strengthen mechanisms for comprehensive accounting for vulnerable groups in social protection programming	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; Community Leaders; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2026

PRIORITY AREA 5: Social Security

Policy Statement: The Policy will enhance the coverage, quality and range of social security benefits and products across formal and informal sectors.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
To enhanced coverage, quality and range of social security benefits and products both in the formal and informal sectors.	Develop affordable and innovative social protection schemes for the informal sector	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs; Ministry of Labour; Reserve Bank of Malawi; Development Partners; FSPs; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029
	Enhance institutional capacity and legislative frameworks for delivery of effective and sustainable social security schemes or services.	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs; Reserve Bank of Malawi; Ministry of Justice; Department of Human Resources Management and Development; Development Partners; FSPs; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029
	Link employment creation and social insurance for decent work.	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Labour; Ministry of Information and Digitalization; Development Partners; FSPs; Labour Unions; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2027
	Raise awareness about social security and its benefits among different sections of society.	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs; Reserve Bank of Malawi; Ministry of Labour; Ministry of Information and Digitalization; Ministry of Local Government, Unity and Culture; Development Partners; FSPs; Community Leaders; CSOs; NGOs and Research Institutions	2024-2029
	Strengthen coordination and collaboration among informal sector stakeholders	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Labour; Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs; Reserve Bank of Malawi; Development Partners; FSPs; Community Leaders; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029

PRIORITY AREA 6: Creating an enabling Environment for Social Protection Systems

Policy Statement: a.)The Policy promote coordinated multi sectoral social protection interventions at national, district and community levels.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
Ensure that multi sectoral social protection interventions are well coordinated at national, district and community levels.	Strengthen and harmonise social protection coordination structures at all levels	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Local Government, Unity & Culture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Department of Nutrition, Health and HIV and Aids (DNHA); Department of Disaster Management Affairs; Development Partners; and Community Leaders	2024-2026
	Develop participatory approaches in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of social protection programmes and interventions	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; Private Sector; Community Leaders; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029
	Ensure complementarity in designing and implementation of social protection interventions with relevant interventions in other sectors such as health, education, agriculture, and humanitarian	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Health; Department of Disaster Management Affairs; National Local Government Finance Committee; Department of Nutrition, Health and HIV and Aids (DNHA); and Development Partners	2024-2029
	Enhance communications and advocacy in the social protection sector	Department responsible for economic planning and Development, Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Information and Digitalization; Ministry of Local Government, Unity & Culture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; Private Sector; Community Leaders; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029
	Promote public-private partnerships in social protection programmes	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Public Private Partnership Commission; Ministry of Finance & Economic Affairs; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; Private Sector; and Academia	2024-2029

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
	Increase Government budgetary allocation for social protection interventions	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs; Ministry of Information and Digitalization; National Planning Commission; and National Local Government Finance Committee	2024-2029
	Strengthen human capacity for effective programming and delivery of social protection services at all levels	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs; Department of Human Resources Management and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Department of Nutrition, Health and HIV and Aids (DNHA); Development Partners; and Private Sector	2024-2029
	Establish a social protection monitoring and evaluation system to track the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of social protection programmes	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; and National Local Government Finance Committee	2024-2026
	Strengthen harmonized targeting mechanisms for social protection programmes	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry responsible for digitalization; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Education; National Registration Bureau; National Local Government Finance Committee; and Development Partners	2024-2029
	Strengthen legal and regulatory framework for social protection	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Justice; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Labour; Ministry of Information and Digitalization; National Local Government Finance Committee; and Department of Nutrition, Health and HIV and Aids (DNHA)	2024-2029
	Enforce legal instruments to guide implementation of social protection interventions and programmes	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Labour; Ministry of Information and Digitalization; and National Local Government Finance Committee	2024-2029

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
	Enhance social accountability and transparency in social protection implementation	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; Community Leaders CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029

PRIORITY AREA 7: Cross – cutting issues

Policy Statement: a) The Policy will ensure that food security is integrated into existing social safety nets and that improved coordination mechanisms are established among different social safety nets to ensure timely information sharing for maximum impact.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
To ensure that food security is integrated into existing social safety nets and improved coordination mechanisms among different social safety nets to ensure timely information sharing for maximum impact.	Support food production through input provision, knowledge and skills transfer, and extension services linkage	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Local Government; National Planning Commission; National Local Government Finance Committee; Department of Nutrition, Health and HIV and Aids (DNHA); Development Partners; Private Sector; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029
	Explore innovative ways of cushioning farming households against production related risks through social insurance products/ services.	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs; Reserve Bank of Malawi; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; FSPs; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029
	Promote irrigation production and intercropping to improve access to and utilisation of food among poor and vulnerable households.	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029

Policy Statement: b) The Policy will ensure a comprehensive combination of social protection interventions that are designed, implemented and monitored in a way that ensures the inclusion and involvement of persons with disabilities, with particular attention to removing barriers they face and considering the different risks and inequalities.

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
Ensure a comprehensive combination of social protection interventions that are designed, implemented and monitored in a way that ensures the inclusion and involvement of persons with	Enhance disability inclusiveness in social protection programmes and projects	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; Community Leaders; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029
	Promote disability inclusive programming in social protection	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
disabilities, with particular attention to removing barriers they face and considering the different risks and inequalities.	Promote access to social protection interventions for households with persons with disabilities.	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; Community Leaders; CSOs; NGOs; and Religious Leaders	2024-2029
Policy Statement: c) The Policy will ensure that the design, implementation, and delivery mechanism of social protection interventions explicitly address gender dynamics in social protection programmes, in order to address gender stereotypes and unequal gender power relations in the households.			
OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
Ensure that the design, implementation, and delivery mechanism of social protection interventions explicitly address gender dynamics in social protection programmes, in order to address gender stereotypes and unequal gender power relations in the households.	Promote gender balance in capacity building initiatives.	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; Community Leaders; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029
	Promote gender balance in decision making roles	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; Community Leaders; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029
	Promote the use of participatory approaches to involve women in programme or project design.	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; Community Leaders; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029
	Promote the use of gender responsive indicators as a minimum standard for activity design, implementation and monitoring	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029
	Ensure that all social protection programmes are gender sensitive	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; Community Leaders; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029

OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
	Promote positive parenting interventions in social protection	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029
Policy Statement: d) The Policy will ensure that systems and actors account for the importance of the environmental perspective throughout the different phases of the programme, including design, planning, implementation, and monitoring.			
OBJECTIVE	STRATEGY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMEFRAME
Ensure that systems and actors account for the importance of the environmental perspective throughout the different phases of the programme, including design, planning, implementation, and monitoring.	Ensure the integration of environmental considerations in the design, implementation and monitoring of social protection interventions	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Environmental Affairs Department; National Local Government Finance Committee; and Development Partners	2024-2029
	Promote the inclusion of environmental aspects when assessing vulnerabilities, exposure, and potential impacts of disasters.	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; Department of Disaster Management Affairs; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; CSO; and NGOs	2024-2029
	Manage the impacts of environmental drivers such as climate change, the spread of pathogenic organisms and hazardous substances that pose risks to human health	Department responsible for economic planning and Development; Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare; Ministry of Agriculture; National Local Government Finance Committee; Development Partners; Private Sector; CSOs; and NGOs	2024-2029

Annex 2: Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

POLICY PRIORITY AREA 1: Social Safety Nets							
OUTCOME: Strengthened Human Capital accumulation.							
Objectives	Strategy	Output (s)	Performance Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Source (s) of Verification	Assumptions/ Risks
Provide welfare support to the poorest and most vulnerable to improve their standard of living.	Improve the provision of adequate social safety nets benefits.	Social safety nets benefits increased.	Frequency of social safety nets benefit level reviews	Every two years	Annually	Minutes of National Social Protection Steering Committee meetings	Availability of resources, Functional Social Protection coordination structures
		Access to social safety nets by the urban ultra-poor increased	Percentage of urban ultra-poor accessing social safety nets	0	5%	Progress reports	Availability of resources
	Strengthen community involvement and social accountability in selection of social safety nets beneficiaries	Beneficiary selection grievance cases reduced.	Percentage of beneficiary selection related complaints registered	10%	7%	Case management reports	Case management records are timely updated
		Community validation included in programme enrollment processes	Number of programmes with enrollment processes involving validation	2	4	Programme reports	

Objectives	Strategy	Output (s)	Performance Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Source (s) of Verification	Assumptions/ Risks
	Strengthen delivery mechanisms for all safety net programs	Use of social registry in beneficiary identification increased	Number of social safety nets programmes using the social registry for beneficiary identification	2	4	Programme reports	
		Use of electronic payments for social protection beneficiaries increased	Percentage of social safety nets beneficiaries paid electronically	35%	100%	Programme reports	
		Information systems integrated with the social registry	Number of Management information systems integrated with the social registry	1	6	Progress Reports	Readiness of MIS's System compatibility
	Increase coverage of safety nets for ultra-poor households	Households receiving social safety nets benefits increased	Percentage of households receiving social safety nets benefits	29.2%	37.5%	Program progress reports	Availability of services
		Ultra-poor households targeted for social safety nets benefits	Percentage of the ultra- poor households receiving social safety net benefits	85%	100%	Program progress reports	Availability of services
	Strengthen sensitisation of communities on implementation of various safety nets programs.	Community level governance structures oriented on social safety nets	Percentage of Community level governance structures oriented on social safety nets	0%	60%	Programme reports	Availability of resources
		Message materials related to safety nets disseminated through local radios	Percentage of community radios contracted to disseminate information on social safety nets	10% per year	50% per year	Programme reports	Availability of resources

POLICY PRIORITY AREA 2: Resilient Livelihoods							
OUTCOME: Enhanced resilience to asset erosion among the poor and vulnerable							
Objectives	Strategy	Output (s)	Performance Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Source (s) of Verification	Assumptions/ Risks
Compliment welfare support with broader productive livelihoods interventions that assist populations at risk to withstand shocks and build a sustainable livelihood	Strengthen linkages among social assistance programmes and with other basic social services	Social protection programme beneficiaries linked to complementary social services	Percentage of beneficiaries linked to complementary social services	10%	25%	Linkages and referral reports	Availability of service providers
	Diversify income sources, including agricultural and off-farm activities to build resilience.	Social protection programme beneficiaries trained in productive skills	Percentage of beneficiary households equipped with knowledge and skills for productive livelihoods	10%	18%	Program training reports	Availability of resources
	Enhance access to productive resources and skills for vulnerable populations.	Access to financial services among ultra-poor and vulnerable populations increased	Percentage of Social Protection beneficiaries with more than one income generating activity	10%	60%	Reports	Stable macroeconomic environment
			Percentage of beneficiaries with access to formal financial services	36%	100%	Reports	Availability of suitable/ pro-poor financial products Availability of financial service providers

Objectives	Strategy	Output (s)	Performance Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Source (s) of Verification	Assumptions/ Risks
	Promote inclusive savings and loans schemes	Participation in savings and loans schemes by ultra-poor and vulnerable populations increased.	Percentage of beneficiaries participating in savings and loans groups	82%	100%	Reports	Availability of financial service providers

POLICY PRIORITY AREA 3: Nutrition-Sensitive Social Protection							
OUTCOME: Strengthened Human Capital accumulation							
Objectives	Strategy	Output (s)	Performance Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Source (s) of Verification	Assumptions/ Risks
Provide welfare support to the poorest and most vulnerable to improve their standard of living	Promote nutrition-sensitive value chains within social protection	Nutrition-sensitive value chains integrated in livelihoods promotion projects	Number of livelihoods promotion projects with nutrition value chains integrated in their manuals.	0	6	Program progress reports	
			Percentage of SLGs/cooperatives participating in nutrition-sensitive value chains.	2%	10%	Program progress reports	Availability of advisory services
	Promote production and consumption of diverse nutritious foods among social protection beneficiaries	Saving and Loans Groups (SLGs) trained in production and utilization of diverse nutrition foods	Percentage of SLGs trained in production and utilization of diverse nutrition foods.	30%	80%	Progress reports	Availability of resources
	Empower vulnerable populations with Integrated Homestead Farming package	Ultra-poor and vulnerable populations trained in integrated homestead farming	Percentage of ultra-poor and vulnerable population trained in homestead farming.	5%	20%	Program progress reports	Availability of service providers

Objectives	Strategy	Output (s)	Performance Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Source (s) of Verification	Assumptions/ Risks
	Harmonize coordination mechanisms for nutrition and social protection interventions	Shock responses integrated with nutrition sensitivity	Percentage of nutrition sensitive shock responses	0	50%	Programme reports	Little led time before implementation
	Promote optimal nutrition in social protection interventions	Nutrition and Social Protection Collaboration framework established	Number of Nutrition and Social Protection framework established	0	1	Progress reports	Availability of funds Stakeholder Commitment
			Number of Nutrition and Social Protection Collaboration joint review meetings	0	Quarterly	Joint Review reports	Availability of funds Stakeholder Commitment
	Promote WASH and consumption of diverse diets focusing on locally available foods among children, adolescent girls and boys and pregnant and lactating mothers	Social protection Programme beneficiaries trained on WASH and diverse diets focusing on locally available foods	Percentage of households trained in preparation of diverse diets focusing on locally available foods.	2%	12%	Program progress reports	
			Percentage of households adhering to basic WASH.	10%	35%	Program progress reports	Availability of community compliance structures.

POLICY PRIORITY AREA 4: Shock sensitive social Protection**OUTCOME: Strengthened Shock-sensitive social protection system**

Objectives	Strategy	Output (s)	Performance Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Source (s) of Verification	Assumptions/ Risks
Compliment welfare support with broader productive livelihoods interventions that assist populations at risk to withstand shocks and build a sustainable livelihood.	Design scalable programmes to address acute needs during shocks.	Shock-sensitive Social Protection Resource Mobilization Strategy developed.	Shock-sensitive Social Protection Resource Mobilization Strategy in place.	0	1	Resource Mobilisation Strategy.	Willingness of stakeholders.
	Establish predictable, multi-year support system for poor households to reduce annual emergency responses.	Ultra-poor population impacted by shocks reached by shock responses.	Percentage of impacted Ultra-poor households reached through vertical and horizontal expansion	75%	100%	Program progress reports	Availability of resources
	Strengthen district-level coordination structures among humanitarian and social protection actors.	Staff trained in designing and implementation of shock response interventions	Number of staff trained at central level	5	20	Training reports	Availability of resources
			Number of staff trained at council level	26	60	Training reports	Availability of resources

Objectives	Strategy	Output (s)	Performance Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Source (s) of Verification	Assumptions/ Risks
		Household vulnerability to food insecurity reduced	Percentage of households requiring multi-year support	80%	40%	MVAC reports	Enhanced capacity building of vulnerable and Ultra-poor households
		Household records timely updated in the social registry	Frequency of updating social registry parameters	Every 4 years	Every 2 months	Social registry (UBR) progress reports	Availability of Resources Willingness of Stakeholders
		Humanitarian and Social Protection actors undertaking Joint monitoring activities	Frequency of joint monitoring exercises	Annually	Biannually	Activity reports	Incentives to hold the meeting are in place Availability of resources
	Link vulnerable households to complementary services like veterinary services drought resistant crops	Access to streamlined complementary services for vulnerable households increased	Percentage of households accessing streamlined complementary services	10%	20%	Program progress report	Availability of service providers
	Integrate an environmental perspective in shocks and pandemic prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery	Shock Sensitive Environmental guidelines developed	Shock Sensitive Environmental guidelines in place	0	1	Shock Sensitive	
	Strengthen mechanisms for comprehensive accounting for vulnerable groups in social protection programming	Vulnerable groups accounted for in shock sensitive response	Number of vulnerability parameters disaggregated in reporting	0	24 (4 parameters in 6 programs)	Environmental guidelines Program progress reports	Compliance by stakeholders

POLICY PRIORITY AREA 5: Social Security

OUTCOME: Enhanced quality and coverage of social security, covering risks across the life cycle

Objectives	Strategy	Output (s)	Performance Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Source (s) of Verification	Assumptions/ Risks
Build the foundations for providing a comprehensive, adequate and sustainable social security or protection over the life cycle in line with international standards including for those working in the informal sector.	Develop and strengthen social insurance schemes	Affordable and innovative social security schemes for the informal sector developed	Number of schemes for informal sector developed	0	2	Reserve Bank of Malawi reports	Adequate institutional capacity
	Develop affordable and innovative social protection schemes for the informal sector.	Existing social security schemes reviewed	Number of existing schemes reviewed	0	1	Reserve Bank of Malawi reports	Adequate institutional capacity
	Enhance institutional capacity and legislative frameworks for delivery of effective and sustainable social security schemes or services	Legislation for social security reviewed	Number of laws reviewed/ developed	0	2	Parliament gazettes	Adequate institutional capacity
		Social security stakeholders trained	Number of officers in relevant MDAs trained	0	50	Training reports	Availability of resources
			Number of officers from Financial Service	0	50	Training reports	Availability of resources
	Link employment creation and social insurance for decent work	Workers and Employers sensitized on decent work	Providers trained Percentage of employer organization reached.	0%	40%	Progress reports	Effective stakeholder collaboration
			Percentage of worker associations reached.	0%	50%	Progress reports	Effective stakeholder collaboration

Objectives	Strategy	Output (s)	Performance Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Source (s) of Verification	Assumptions/ Risks
	Raise awareness about social security and its benefits among different sections of society	Develop a Social Security Communication Strategy	A Social Security Communication Strategy in place.	0	1	Progress reports	
	Strengthen coordination and collaboration among informal sector stakeholders	Establish stakeholders' coordination fora.	Number of stakeholders' coordination fora.	0	2	reports	Willingness of key stakeholders to participate

POLICY PRIORITY AREA 6: Creating an Enabling Environment for Social Protection System							
OUTCOME: Enhanced institutional capacity of the social protection machinery							
Objectives	Strategy	Output (s)	Performance Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Source (s) of Verification	Assumptions/ Risks
Strengthen systems and capacities of stakeholders to manage social protection programs	Strengthen and harmonize social protection coordination structures at all levels	Functional Social Protection coordination structures established	Number of steering committee meetings	Annual	2 per year	Steering Committee meeting minutes	Terms of Reference are reviewed
			Number of technical committee meetings	2 per year	Quarterly	Technical Committee meeting minutes	Terms of Reference are reviewed
	Develop participatory approaches in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of social protection programmes and interventions	Participatory approaches for core social protection programs developed.	Number of social protection core programs with participatory approaches	0	6	Progress reports	
	Ensure complementarity in designing and implementation of social	Social Protection coordination structures reviewed	Reviewed Social Protection coordination structures in place	0	1	Progress reports	

Objectives	Strategy	Output (s)	Performance Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Source (s) of Verification	Assumptions/ Risks
	protection interventions with relevant interventions in other sectors such as health, education, agriculture, and humanitarian						
	Enhance communications and advocacy in the social protection sector	Communication and advocacy strategy for Social Protection developed	Communication strategy in place	0	1	Communication strategy	
	Promote public-private partnerships in social protection programmes	PPPs in social protection programs established	Number of PPPs established	0	3	Memoranda of understanding	Capacity for developing viable Public-private partnerships
	Strengthen resource mobilization to ensure sustainable investments from government and non-government sources	Pool financing for Social Protection established	Percentage of Social Protection funding mobilized through pool funding arrangements	50%	90%	Progress reports	Strong Government leadership
	Strengthen human capacity for effective programming and delivery of social protection services at all levels	Human capacity for effective programming and delivery of social protection services at all levels developed	Percentage of vacant positions of key personnel filled	60%	90%	HR records/staff returns	Availability of resources High staff retention
			Number of staff trained in Social Protection core-specialty	35	100	Training reports	Availability of resources

Objectives	Strategy	Output (s)	Performance Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Source (s) of Verification	Assumptions/ Risks
	Establish a social protection monitoring and evaluation system to track the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of social protection programmes	Social protection monitoring and evaluation systems developed	M & E systems in place	0	1	Progress reports	
	Strengthen harmonized targeting mechanisms for social protection programmes	Social registry (UBR) dynamic update mechanism developed	Social registry dynamic update mechanism in place	0	1	Programme progress reports	
	Strengthen legal and regulatory framework for social protection	Social registry integrated with other Management Information Systems (MIS's)	Number of MISs integrated with social registry	0	6	Programme progress reports	Willingness to integrate Compatibility with other MIS's
	Enforce legal instruments to guide implementation of social protection interventions and programmes	Laws and regulations for social protection developed	Social Protection Bill in place	0	1	Progress reports	Drafting capacity
	Enhance social accountability and transparency in social protection implementation	Legal instruments to guide implementation of social protection services and programs enforced.	Social Protection regulations in place	0	1	Parliament gazettes	Drafting capacity
		Harmonized Grievance and Redress Mechanisms (GRM) operationalized	Number of districts with functional grievance redress mechanisms (GRM) structures	4	28	Progress reports	Availability of the resources

POLICY PRIORITY AREA 7: Cross-Cutting issues**OUTCOME: Enhanced institutional capacity of the social protection machinery**

Objectives	Strategy	Output (s)	Performance Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Source (s) of Verification	Assumptions/ Risks
Strengthen systems and capacities of stakeholders to manage social protection programs	Support food production through input provision, knowledge & skills transfer, and extension services linkage	Social Protection beneficiaries trained in food production	Number of beneficiaries trained	135,000	520,000	Program progress reports	
			Number of beneficiaries reached with farm inputs	50,000	250,000	Program progress reports	Availability of resources
	Explore innovative ways of cushioning farming households against production related risks through social insurance products/ services	Social Protection beneficiaries' access to innovative financial products/services increased	Number of beneficiaries linked to crop insurance	0	100,000	Program progress reports	Investments in mindset change
			Number of beneficiaries with access to micro-loans	2,000	100,000	Program progress reports	Availability of service providers
	Promote irrigation production and intercropping to improve access to and utilisation of food among poor and vulnerable households	Social Protection beneficiaries' capacities in irrigation production and intercropping developed	Number of beneficiaries trained in irrigation production and intercropping	5,000	30,000	Program progress reports	Availability of advisory services

Objectives	Strategy	Output (s)	Performance Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Source (s) of Verification	Assumptions/ Risks
	Enhance disability inclusiveness in social protection programmes and projects	Social protection staff trained on disability inclusion	Number of staff trained on disability inclusion	30	200	Training report	
	Promote access to social protection interventions for households with persons with disabilities	Disability inclusive guidelines developed	Number of disability inclusive guidelines in place	0	1	Program progress reports	
			Number of social protection programs made disability inclusive	0	7	Program progress reports	
			Number social protection programs reporting on disability indicators	1	7	Program progress reports	
	Ensure gender balance in capacity building initiatives	Participation of women in capacity building initiatives increased	Percentage of women participating in capacity building initiatives	35%	50%	Training reports	
		Increased participation of women in training/facilitation teams	Percentage of women participating in training/facilitation teams	20%	50%	Training reports	
	Ensure gender balance in decision making roles	Participation of women in decision making roles in social protection programs increased	Percentage of women in decision making roles in Social Protection programs	40%	65%	Program progress reports	

Objectives	Strategy	Output (s)	Performance Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Source (s) of Verification	Assumptions/ Risks
	Promote the use of participatory approaches to involve women in programme or project design	Social Protection program design processes involving women increased	Percentage of program design processes involving women	40%	80%	Workshop reports	
	Promote the use of gender responsive indicators as a minimum standard for activity design, implementation and monitoring	Gender responsive indicators in the Social Protection M & E system incorporated	M & E system with gender responsive indicators in place	0	1	Monitoring activity reports	
	Ensure that all social protection programmes are gender sensitive	Gender sensitivity in social protection programs increased	Number of gender sensitive social protection programs	2	6	Program progress reports	
	Promote positive parenting interventions in social protection	Use of gender transformative approaches increased	Percentage of livelihood programs using gender transformative approaches	10%	40%	Program progress reports	
	Ensure integration of environmental considerations in the design, implementation and monitoring of social protection interventions	Environmental considerations integrated into all social protection interventions	Number of core-programs incorporating environmental considerations	1	6	Program progress reports	Availability of funds

Objectives	Strategy	Output (s)	Performance Indicator(s)	Baseline	Target	Source (s) of Verification	Assumptions/ Risks
	Promote the inclusion of environmental aspects when assessing vulnerabilities, exposure, and potential impacts of disasters	Environmental aspects included in vulnerability and disaster impact assessments	Percentage of vulnerability and disaster impact assessments incorporating environmental aspects	30%	70%	Post disaster recovery reports Program progress reports	
	Manage the impacts of environmental drivers such as climate change, the spread of pathogenic organisms and hazardous substances that pose risks to human health	Impacts of environmental drivers on human health reduced	Percentage of hazards mitigated	80%	100%	Program progress reports	Availability of resources



Government of Malawi

NATIONAL SOCIAL PROTECTION POLICY

2024 - 2029